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18 May 1966

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Current Intelligence

THROUGH : Chief, Far East Area

FROM : Chief, China Division

SUBJECT : Preliminary Evaluation of [] Mission C126C
Flown on 14 May 1966

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The mission provided generally fair to good photography of western Yunnan Province in southwest China. []

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There was no evidence of a large-scale military buildup, although numerous military installations, some under construction, were seen in this area. Only a few airfields were photographed. Yannani and Peitun reflected essentially the same AOB as that reported in []

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He did report seeing two, possibly three, SA-2 missile contrails in the Kunming area. The photography revealed at least two possible SA-2 missiles in flight about 15 miles east of Kunming, but no missile sites were seen in the area. The missiles appeared to be spent and losing altitude. They were not seen exploding.

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A full review of this incident is underway. No SAM activity was observed in this area as recently as []

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Ground Force Installations

3. 21 military barrack and storage areas were photographed, including the headquarters of three of the six infantry divisions based in Yunnan Province. No unusual activity was noted. A new possible barracks area was seen under construction at Chiu Kung Tung, west of Kunming, containing numerous barracks and support buildings within a 1500 square foot area. At least five other fairly large military areas in this vicinity were reported as new installations. However, these targets will have to be compared with other photography at NPIC to determine if they are in fact new installations.

Air Installations

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4. No significant changes in the facilities or AOB were observed at the four airfields photographed. There were approximately the same number and type of aircraft at Yunnani/Peitun airfields as was reported in [redacted] two IL-28s, 66 MIG-15/17s, 19 light transports, 4 probable piston engine trainers and 10 unidentified aircraft. Most, if not all, of these aircraft are believed to have come from North Vietnam.

Other Targets Of Interest

5. A new communications facility was reported at Lien Tu in a sunburst configuration with approximately 50 radial lines, a central transmission building, and support buildings in a 420 square foot area. The facility is located about 100 miles west of Kunming.

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Prepared by: [redacted]

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